and when the Revolution came, it began in an unexpected quarter without his assistance or direction/'

Evidence that Dr. Sun had lost the leadership of the Revolutionary movement may also be found in partisan accounts. " *The Inner History of the Revolution* " by Tang Leang-li, for example, states that with few exceptions the *Tung Meng Hui* members had little prestige among the masses, and that it was for this reason that it was necessary to invite well-known officials and diplomats who did not belong to the Party, to take charge of important affairs, and for this reason, also, that Yuan Shih-kai was proposed as first President. The National Council had decided to settle the deadlock between Li Yuan-hung and Huang Hsing by offering Sun Yat-sen the Provisional Presidency, a position in which he was never happy. For '' he felt that the majority of the Party comrades, immediately victory was in sight, had forgotten the implications of their revolutionary oath, and were no longer willing to submit to his guidance unquestioningly/' There was a serious dispute between him and the-members of the Deputation that offered him the Presidency, as he favoured maintenance of the system of military government until China was pacified and the reactionary elements

rooted out, and they insisted upon the immediate adoption of a constitutional regime. " Sun had to acknowledge defeat, but nevertheless he could not let the revolutionary leaders down by refusing the Presidency outright."